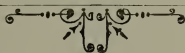




URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF LATHOM AND BURSCOUGH.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,
1911.



ANNUAL REPORT.

MARCH 8TH, 1912.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Lathom and Burscough.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you my Sixteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitation of your District.

No notable Sanitary Improvements have been made during 1911. The district being really rural in character, supplied practically throughout with water from the Council's Main. A good system of sewers in the populated portion of the district, very few back to back houses, no Courts or Slums, and as a rule, gardens or open spaces to all houses, there is very little scope for any increased Sanitary Improvements.

The public lighting has been extended during the year and it is intended to further increase the number of street lamps before next winter. The main roads were tar sprayed last summer, and this helped considerably to reduce the dust nuisance. Next year it is intended to treat the footpaths with tarred chippings or artificial asphalt.

It is only in the very old houses that serious sanitary defects exist, and for the past 25 years these have been gradually demolished, until now very few remain. What few are left are very picturesque looking, whitewashed walls, thatched roofs, very warm in winter, cool in summer. All very clean inside and comfortable, but as a rule the sanitary arrangements are very bad. In a few cases, however, the privies have been pulled down, the cottages repaired, and earth closets erected. Most of these cottages are rented very low, 2/- or 2/6 per week. Many of them have good gardens, and they are eagerly sought after by farm labourers, &c., who as a rule get small wages.

The area of Lathom and Burscough is 13,654 acres, and only a very small portion of it is covered by water and then only in rainy seasons, Martin Mere, Burscough, and the Low Meadows, Lathom, being the only parts that are occasionally flooded. This year owing to the small amount of rainfall both these portions of the district were practically free from flooding.

Both Lathom and Burscough are very flat, the only portion that is at all hilly being at the southern extremity of Lathom.

The population is very scattered except in such places as New Lane, Burscough Bridge, Burscough Junction, Hoscar Moss, Newburgh, and Westhead, where small villages are formed.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal runs right through both districts from east to west, and divides it into two portions, a north side of the canal and a south side of the canal.

The district is strictly rural in character. The ground is very fertile and fetches a high price per acre. There are a large number of farms, varying from a few acres to 100 acres in extent.

By far the greater number of the inhabitants are agriculturalists. Many of the labouring classes living at the south end of the district are colliers, and there are probably 400 or 500 boatmen in the district who find employment on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. There is a Flour Mill, Saw Mills, Laundry, Seed Warehouses, two Brickworks, and an Ordnance Stores finding further employment for the inhabitants.

Population.

The population taken at the Census this year was 7,235, and in 1901 when it was taken it was 7,111, so that during the past ten years there has only been an increase of 124. My estimate for last year was 7,900, so

that I have considerably over-estimated it. The different villages in the district have undoubtedly increased in size, but it has been at the expense of the outlying districts. Many people have removed to the various towns on account of the scarcity of work for their children.

Births.

The number of births registered for the whole year is 182 and is the lowest for many years, with the exception of 1907, when only 172 births were registered.

Males	...	96
Females	...	86
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Total	...	182 Births.

The birth rate is 25·1 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 27·4, the corrected rate for last year.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the district is 101. Included in this number are the deaths of 2 who were non-residents, so that these should be deducted making the number 99. 16 residents of Lathom and Burscough have died outside the district, and these will now have to be added to the number registered as having actually occurred in Lathom and Burscough. This brings the total to 115, and is 3 more than the average for the past ten years.

Every death of a resident in Lathom and Burscough occurring outside the district is now transferred to the district to which it belongs. In previous years it was impossible to give an accurate list of all deaths; now, however, this can be accomplished, and this is probably the reason that the death rate seems higher than usual, namely 15·8, the average for the past 10 years being 14·45.

Males	...	65
Females	...	50
<hr/>		
Total	...	115 Deaths.

Zymotic Death Rate.

The Zymotic death rate is considerably greater than that of last year, when only 5 occurred. This year there are altogether 17. The deaths registered as due to the seven principal Zymotic diseases are

Smallpox	...	...	...	No Deaths.
Measles	...	...	...	1 Death.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1 Death.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	No Deaths.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	5 Deaths.
Continued Fevers—Enteric				No Deaths.
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	10 Deaths.
Total				17 Deaths.

This gives an epidemic death rate of 2·34 per 1000 of the population, the increase being due to a greater number of deaths occurring from Diphtheria and also from Diarrhœa.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of Infants dying under 1 year of age is exactly the same as last year, namely 15. The average deaths of Infants for the past 10 years has been 26·6, and last year's Infantile Mortality and this year's are by far the most satisfactory we have ever had, and this notwithstanding the hot summer and autumn, when Diarrhœa and Enteric were very prevalent amongst Infants. Had it not been for this disease the Mortality in Infants would have been considerably reduced.

The rate per 1000 births registered being 82·4 and the average for the past 10 years being about 120.

The improvement both this year and last year is undoubtedly due to the greater care exercised in the keeping of Milk intended for the use of children, keeping it covered up, sterilizing it, greater cleanliness generally, more care with feeding bottles, a better sample of feeding bottle being used, and preventing house flies contaminating food.

Pamphlets have been issued during the year giving instructions to parents on the management and care of Infants and the preparation of Infants' foods.

We have a District Nurse whose whole time is taken up with attending to the poor of both Lathom and Burscough, and who has had an exceedingly busy year. She has been devoted to her work, and has, without doubt, assisted very materially in the reduction of the Infantile Mortality.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is not adopted in the district, neither have we any Health Visitors.

The total deaths in Infants under 1 year of age is made up as follows:—

Diarrhœa	6 Deaths.
Tuberculosis	1 Death.
Premature Birth	3 Deaths.
Debility	3 Deaths.
Convulsions	1 Death.
Bronchitis	1 Death.
<hr/>	
Total	15 Deaths.

There were 3 illegitimate births registered during the year, none dying.

A considerable amount of money has been given by a gentleman interested in Burscough to pay for a nurse to look after the poorer classes in Burscough. If this money could only be used for a Health Visitor who would visit Mothers and advise them of the care they should take of their own health during the period of pregnancy, and also advise them on the management of the Infant afterwards, a great deal of good would certainly result both to the Mothers and to the Infants. Health Visitors have been appointed in various districts in Lancashire, and with very good results.

Infectious Diseases.

Sixty-nine cases were reported to me during the year, as against 44 for 1910, there being an increase in Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, and Erysipelas.

There were no cases of Smallpox. The compulsory Notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and Acute Poliomyelitis has now been adopted.

	No. of Cases reported.			No. removed to Hospital.		
Scarlet Fever ...	23	...	...	...	17	
Diphtheria ...	21	...	...	...	8	
Enteric Fever ...	13	...	...	...	12	
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	...	—
Puerperal Fever...	2	...	...	...	—
Phthisis...	3	...	...	...	—
<hr/>						
Total ...	69 cases.		Removed	...	37	

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-three cases were reported and 17 patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Ormskirk. Only 1 death was reported. Nearly all the cases were reported from Lathom.

Burscough ...	2
Lathom ...	21

No particular month was free, cases being notified each month of the year, and from all over the district of Lathom. The percentage of removals to Hospital was high, almost 74 per cent. of the total number notified. As in past years, the attacks proved exceptionally mild, in some cases it being very difficult to diagnose them. Consequently parents regarded the disease lightly, and failed to obtain Medical Aid. In one instance, 5 or 6 children were found to be suffering from Scarlet Fever and all of them were attending School. In another case, 3 children were attending School while suffering from the effects of the disease.

Measles.

This disease is not notifiable in the district, and consequently it is difficult to arrive at an idea of the number of cases that there have been. In February, Hall Lane Infants' Schools were closed for 14 days. A class in St. John's Infants' Schools was closed from May 22nd to May 27th, but failed to arrest the disease, so that on June 15th I was obliged to advise the closure of St. John's Infants' Schools from June 15th to July 3rd.

I am afraid that Mothers do not treat this disease seriously, and are too apt to think that it is an illness which every child has or ought to have. Frequently no Medical Advice is sought and no Isolation is enforced by them. Children are allowed to mix freely with each other instead of being isolated for at least 3 weeks. As it is highly infectious for several days before the appearance of the rash, it is a disease which is almost impossible for the Sanitary Authorities to cope with.

Whooping Cough.

There were a considerable number of cases at Newburgh about September, October, November, and December, the disease being introduced into the district by some little visitors from Southport. It spread amongst the Scholars attending the Newburgh School, and these Schools were closed from Sept. 25th, 1911, to Oct. 23rd, 1911.

Diphtheria.

Cases notified, 21. Deaths, 5.

Last year 17 cases were notified with only one death, so that there is an increase this year of 4 cases and an increase of 4 deaths. Eight out of the total number were removed, and out of these there were two deaths.

The Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, is in force in the district and in most of the cases of Diphtheria it has been used. In cases where I have been satisfied that efficient isolation was available at the houses of the patients, I have allowed the patients to be retained at home, but when not satisfied the cases have been removed to Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

Thirteen cases were reported, 10 from Burscough and 3 from Lathom, 12 altogether were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths, all the patients recovering, although several had severe attacks. I was altogether unable to trace the source of infection in these cases. A considerable quantity of shell fish, cockles,

mussels, &c., are sold in the district, and I believe these are collected by fishermen along the banks of the Ribble. Cockles, mussels, &c., collected from such a source, are extremely likely to be polluted.

Diarrhœa.

Under this heading are included all deaths registered as due to Epidemic Diarrhœa, Epidemic Enteritis, Infectious Enteritis, Zymotic Enteritis, Summer Diarrhœa, Dysentery, and Dysenteric Diarrhœa.

Diarrhœa gave rise to 10 deaths, 8 being of Infants under two years of age, and 2 of Adults, as compared with only 3 for 1910. Most of these deaths occurred during the Autumn months. 60 per cent. were in Infants under 1 year of age. The increase in the number of deaths due to Diarrhœa this year is undoubtedly due to the higher temperature we have had during the Summer and Autumn months. There has been a much greater plague of the common house fly, one the of main factors in the cause of this disease. Had it not been that every precaution was taken by the Sanitary Authorities to keep the streets clean, clean up yards, empty privies frequently, and to issue disinfectants, I think that it is very probable that we would have had many more cases of Diarrhœa and a corresponding increase in the death rate.

Respiratory Diseases.

Respiratory diseases comprising Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, accounted for 12 deaths, equal to 9·5 per cent. of the total mortality. Last year the total for the County was 19·5, so that we are very much below the average.

Phthisis.

Phthisis or Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the cause of 10 deaths, or 1 less than in the previous year, or 1·3 per 1000 of the population. The County death rate for Urban Districts of Lancashire was 0·82 for 1910, so that our death rate from this disease is greater than the

average for the County. Along with Grange-over-Sands, Allerton, Ormskirk, and Ashton-under-Lyne, we furnish the highest death rate from Phthisis. Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, which only apply to persons under the care of Poor-law Medical Officers, 3 cases were notified.

On 1st May, further Regulations came into operation making it compulsory for in-patients or out-patients at Hospitals to be notified. No cases however, so far, have been notified to me. No arrangement has been made by this Council for the voluntary notification of cases of Phthisis, but in the near future it is to be made compulsorily notifiable, and no doubt when this law is passed and careful supervision kept of all milk sold in the district, to prevent Tuberculous Milk from being distributed: this, and the disinfection of all houses and rooms occupied by Phthisical patients, then I think we may expect to have a decreased death rate from Phthisis.

Cancer.

The deaths ascribed to Cancer or Malignant Disease numbered 9, or 1·2 per 1000 of the population, and is greater than the average for the County.

Isolation and Disinfection.

Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Erysipelas, Smallpox, Enteric Fever, and Typhus Fever, are the diseases which are notifiable. Measles, Whooping Cough and Mumps are not.

Altogether 69 cases have been notified, and 37 have been removed to Hospital. Two patients died in the Isolation Hospital, both being cases of Diphtheria.

The Hospital for infectious diseases is situated in Ormskirk, just outside the boundary of Burscough, and is about 3 miles from the centre of the district. It is a joint Hospital for Ormskirk, Lathom and Burscough, and is capable of accommodating 26 patients, this being amply sufficient for the requirements of the district.

The number of cases that can be concurrently treated are—

Scarlet Fever	...	16
Enteric Fever	...	5
Diphtheria	...	5
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Total	...	26 cases.

Very extensive use has been made of the hospital, 17 cases of Scarlet Fever being admitted out of 23 reported; 8 of Diphtheria out of 21 reported; 12 of Enteric Fever out of 13 reported. The parents now quite recognise that their children are much better off when treated at the Hospital. All the children like the place and their Nurses, and when they leave the Hospital they are all sorry to see the last of it.

In cases where I find that they have ample accommodation for the treatment of the cases at their own homes, cases are allowed to remain there, but when the accommodation is insufficient or there is danger of the disease spreading to others, they are removed.

The usual procedure when a case of infectious disease is reported and the patient removed, is for the Caretaker at the Hospital to visit the house and to thoroughly disinfect all rooms with Formaline Vapour and to take away with him all infected bedding and clothing. These are taken to the Hospital and there disinfected with a Thirsk Steam Disinfector, being returned again by the Caretaker to the house when completed. Where a patient has been treated at home, at the termination of the illness the Caretaker proceeds to the house, disinfects and removes infected bedding, as in cases removed.

Pamphlets are issued to each case notified, and disinfectants, both in powder form and fluid, are given to all who apply, either for infectious cases, or for their drains, sinks, or ashpits.

Scavenging.

This is carried out by the Council's own men, and is very satisfactory. The emptying of ashpits is kept so well in hand that when notice is given at the office it is attended to within 48 hours at the most. Bins are now installed at some of the houses where water closets are in use, and these are emptied fortnightly. The refuse is used for filling up ditches or water holes, any parts suitable for manure being taken by farmers. The ditches when level are covered with good soil and brought into cultivation.

Sanitary Administration.

NUISANCES.

No statutory notices have been served requiring the abatement of nuisances during the year. 119 nuisances have been dealt with during the year, and no legal proceedings have been necessary.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following are in force in the district:—

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

PRIVY MIDDENS.

Number of Privy Middens, about	1250
Fresh Water Closets	... 221
Pail Closets	... a few only
Waste Water Closets	... 10

Conversions from Privy Middens

To Water Closets	... 30
To Pails	... 4
Total	... 34

A detailed list of the nuisances remedied during the year will be found in Mr. Burrows's Report.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Twenty-two houses have been inspected under Sec. 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act; of this number, 2, although in good structural condition as regards the walls, &c., were ordered to be closed until made habitable, owing to the bad condition of the roof, windows, doors, &c., and they are now being thoroughly overhauled and repaired. On enquiring the intention of the owner with regard to an old-fashioned thatched cottage, the Council were informed that as soon as the tenant (aged 84), could make arrangements to leave it, it would be demolished. This has now been done.

Another thatched cottage was also demolished without any representation from the Council, during the year. With regard to the other houses inspected, there were no matters requiring serious attention at any of them, the main thing required being improvement of the paving round the houses. There is no slum or court property in this district and very few back-to-back houses. Nearly all the cottages have a large amount of air space, with plenty of ground between each one, and I should think 9 out of 10 are provided with gardens.

The old-fashioned thatched cottages, of which there were a considerable number 26 years ago, are gradually disappearing, and what few are left are occupied by old people who have been born in them. At their deaths these cottages will be demolished, much to the regret of their sons and daughters, as most of them are very comfortable, very cheaply rented, and they all have large gardens, or almost a field attached to them. There is very little overcrowding in the district, occasionally you come across a married daughter or son living with the parents and sharing the same house, and contributing to pay the rent. In excuse for this I may say that the rents are too high for the amount of wages the people earn, and the cause of the high rents charged is due mainly to the high ground rents asked for land for building purposes.

The population has not increased very much during the past 10 years, only a little over 100, and a fair amount of new property has been erected during that period. There are at present about 30 cottages suitable for the working classes without tenants.

Public Elementary Schools.

The sanitary arrangements at all the schools in the district have been much improved during the year, and in all cases where it has been possible to adopt water closets this has been done. The Wesleyan Schools, St. John's Schools, Burscough Bridge, and the Roman Catholic Schools have all had water closets put in instead of the old-fashioned evil-smelling privies. At Westhead Schools they are proceeding with the work and it will be shortly completed.

Dr. A. S. Arkle, of Bentham, West Derby, Liverpool, is the school medical inspector for the district.

Water Supply.

Notwithstanding the exceedingly dry summer, we had an ample supply of good drinking water, and it was not necessary to issue any instructions even to consumers to be careful over the amount used. The whole supply is obtained from Bath Springs, Burscough, and is of very excellent quality and ample for the needs of the district. Almost the whole district is supplied. It is obtained from 2 deep bore-holes in the new red sandstone and is pumped up to a water tower and from there carried to the various parts of the district.

The water has been analysed at various times, and has always been found of excellent quality. It has practically no plumbo solvent action, so that there have never been any cases of lead poisoning in the district through its use.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are only 3 in the district, all are kept very clean, and no public abbatoir is provided or considered necessary.

Food unfit for Consumption.

No food has been seized as unfit for consumption during the year.

Dairies, Cow Sheds, and Milk Shops.

The majority of the cowkeepers in this district have other sources of income besides selling milk. Many of them are greengrocers, small farmers, &c. Most of them keep only 2, 3, or 4 cows, and only two out of the lot keep more than 8 cows.

The cow sheds are frequently inspected, and are generally found fairly clean and to have been linewashed, but in many cases the places are old, delapidated, ceilings too low, badly ventilated, and badly lighted. A prevalent idea in the district is that cows will give better milk and more of it if the cows are kept warm and free from draughts, so that all means of ventilation are shut off and every crevice stopped. The cattle are turned out in the fields every day for some time, and therefore the regulations with regard to air space should not apply to them so much as in towns. All the cowkeepers in the district have been notified that strict compliance with the regulations will in future be required.

In the meantime I would like to suggest that greater care should be taken by every milk dealer in the district over the grooming of his cows, especially over its hind quarters. The cleansing of the cow's teats well before each milking, wearing of clean overalls, clean hands, and clean vessels to put the milk in. If along with this, we could have the veterinary inspection of all cows in order to detect tuberculosis in them, and the bacteriological testing of milk for tubercle bacteria, we would be going a long way in the prevention of tubercular diseases amongst children.

Lodging-Houses.

There are none in the district.

Drainage.

The sewage from the most thickly populated portion of the district namely, Burscough Bridge, Burscough Town, New Lane, and the adjoining parts of Lathom, is carried to the New Lane sewage farm, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Burscough Bridge. It is treated in open settling tanks without precipitation, and the effluent is then used to irrigate the land, which is 10 statute acres in extent. Besides this, there is another $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, the effluent from which is treated on a cinder filter bed before going into the stream. The effluent from this farm is always good.

The sewage from Westhead, an outlying village in Lathom, is treated in settling tanks with aluminoferric, the tank effluent afterwards passing through double contact trickling filters. The effluent is not so good as the other, but is invariably passed as satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses are inspected several times during the year, at irregular periods, and always found clean and in good condition. There are no underground ones in the district. Only once was it necessary to order lime-washing, and this was due to a flue becoming choked.

Smoke Nuisance.

There are only 8 tall chimneys in the district. There have been no complaints made during the year, nor any timed observations taken. We have no regulations in force limiting the period for the emission of black smoke.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. LAING,

Medical Officer of Health.

LATHOM,

MARCH 8TH, 1912.

TABLE I—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1911 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	NETT.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
About 1906.	7170	206		28·7	110	15·3		4	23	63·1	114	16·3
1907.	7180	172		23·9	101	14·0		9	17	98·8	110	15·3
1908.	7190	198		27·5	97	15·4		9	22	111·1	106	14·7
1909.	7200	204		28·3	92	12·7		9	18	80·4	101	11·3
1910.	7210	198		27·4	97	13·4		11	15	75·7	108	14·9
1911.	7235	182	182	25·1	101	13·9	2	16	15	82·4	115	15·8

Area of District in acres (exclusive of Area covered by water)—13,654.

Total population at all ages.....7,235 } At census
 Number of inhabited houses 1,451 } of 1911.
 Average number of persons per house... 4·9 }

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	DEATHS IN HOSPITAL OF PATIENTS REMOVED FROM THIS DISTRICT.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.			45 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	21	8	5	3	5	2	10	11	8	2						
Cholera	7	2	1	1	1	2	4	3	17							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	23	2	19	2	2	2	2	21								
Erysipelas	13	1	7	2	3		10	3	12							
Scarlet fever																
Typhus fever																
Enteric fever																
Relapsing fever... ..																
Continued fever	2				2		1	1								
Puerperal fever... ..																
Plague																
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	2				1	1	2									
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	1					1		1								
Others																
<i>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</i>																
Totals	69	0	11	32	8	12	4	2	39	30	37	3				

Isolation Hospital—

Isolation Hospital, Ormskirk, about 2½ miles from the centre of the District.

Total available Beds—26.

No. of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ... } 3.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1911.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total deaths whether "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	under 1 year	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards	
All causes { Certified	113									
{ Uncertified	2							1	1	
Enteric Fever ...										
Small-pox ...										
Measles ...	1		1							
Scarlet Fever ...	1			1						
Whooping-cough.										
Diphtheria & croup	5		1	2	1		1			
Influenza...										
Erysipelas ...	1				1					
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	10					3	5	2		
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1			1						
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	5	1		1	1		2			
Rheumatic Fever	1							1		
Cancer, malignant disease...	9						1	6	2	
Bronchitis ...	6	1							5	
Bronco-Pneumonia	3			1					2	
Pneumonia (all other forms) ...	2			1			1			
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	1			1						
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	10	6	2					1	1	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...										
Alcoholism ...										
Cirrhosis of liver...										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5						2		3	
Puerperal Fever..	1						1			
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and parturition ...	2	1					1			
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	6	6								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6			2	1	1	1	1		
Sticides ...	1							1		
Other Defined Diseases ...	29					2	4	5	18	
Diseases ill-defined or un-known ...	9							1	8	
	115	15	4	10	4	6	19	18	39	Nil.

Table IV.—Infant Mortality.

1911. *Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.*

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	3		1	1	5	3	1	2	4	15
	Small-pox... ..										
	Chicken-pox										
	Measles										
	Scarlet Fever... ..										
	Diphtheria and Croup ...										
	Whooping Cough										
	Diarrhoea										
	Enteritis						2	1	1	2	6
	Tuberculous Meningitis...										
	Abdominal Tuberculosis									1	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases										
	Congenital Malformations										
	Premature Birth	2		1		3					3
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus				1	1	1		1		3
	Atelectasis										
	Injury at birth... ..										
	Erysipelas										
	Syphilis										
	Rickets										
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)										
	Convulsions	1				1					1
	Gastritis										
	Laryngitis										
	Bronchitis									1	1
	Pneumonia (all forms) ...										
	Suffocation, overlying										
	Other causes										
		3		1	1	5	3	1	2	4	15

Nett Births in the year {

legitimate—179.
 illegitimate—3.

Nett Deaths in the year of {

legitimate infants—15.
 illegitimate infants—0.

ANNUAL REPORT on Factories, Workshops, & Workplaces.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Lathom and Burscough.*

GENTLEMEN,

Enclosed you will find Form 572 duly filled up as required by the Local Government Board.

There are, as you will see, 35 Workshops and Workplaces on the Register.

Mr. Burrows and myself have made 47 visits to Factories and 97 visits to Workplaces and Workshops.

Five written notices have been sent, and no prosecutions have been necessary.

Nuisances under the Public Health Act :—

		Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	...	5	5
Sanitary accommodation not separate for the sexes	...	1	1

One notice was sent to me by H.M. Inspector, and one report was sent by me to him of the action taken in the matter.

We have no home workers in this district.

A case of Scarlet Fever occurred at a house used by a dressmaker. The case was at once removed to Hospital, and the rooms thoroughly stoved and disinfected before she was again allowed to carry on her business as dressmaker.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. LAING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Lathom,

March 8th, 1912.

ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

28TH FEBRUARY, 1912.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Lathom and Burscough.*

GENTLEMEN,

Plans.

During the past year building has been again very slack in the district, the Council having only 14 plans before them for their approval. These were for 1 new detached bungalow, 4 new cottages, and the remainder for small alterations and additions to existing buildings.

Water Supply.

The Council supply almost the entire district with water from their Pumping Station in Dark Lane, Burscough. This water is pumped from 2 boreholes in the new red sandstone, is excellent in quality, and has been quite equal to all the demands made on it for quantity. Notwithstanding the exceedingly dry summer of 1911, absolutely no curtailment was made, and the supply to the consumers has been constant throughout.

A much greater volume was delivered than during the previous year and in consequence the working hours were very much longer, but it is very satisfactory to know that at a time when a large number of water undertakings were compelled to give a supply during the day time only, and urge their consumers to use the utmost care to prevent waste, although, as mentioned, we

had of necessity to keep the pumps going for a longer period than usual, no notices were issued restricting the use of water in any manner whatever.

The whole of the water pumped is lifted into 2 distributing tanks situated at a distance of about 600 yards from the pumping station.

That supplying the greater area of the district having a capacity of 80,000 gallons is at a level of 240 feet above O.D., and gives a very good pressure throughout the most thickly populated district at Burscough Bridge which has an average height of 60 feet above O.D.

The High Level tank, having a capacity of 20,000 gallons, serves the higher portion of the district at Westhead.

During the year 50,873,000 gallons were pumped into the distributing tanks, an average of 139,378 gallons per day. This is an increase of 10,285,000 gallons for the year, and an average increase of 28,178 gallons per day.

4,231,000 gallons were supplied through meters for trade purposes, being an increase of 971,000 over the previous year, and 3,873,000 were supplied under agreement with the West Lancashire Rural District Council to the township of Rufford, this being an increase of 1,090,000 gallons over 1910.

Deducting these quantities from the total amount pumped, the amount of water supplied to the Council's own ratepayers, estimated at 6,800, excluding the population near the Skelmersdale boundary, which are supplied under agreement by the Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board, is 42,769,000, an average of 17·2 gallons per head per day.

About 400 yards of new 3" water mains have been laid during the year, 150 yards to take the water to supply a new bungalow, and 250 yards to supply 4 cottages, the water of which had been condemned by the Medical Officer of Health.

6 new connections have been made to supply new property, &c.

Rainfall.

The total amount of rain recorded at the waterworks pumping station collected by the 8" Negretti and Zambra Raingauge was 32·88 inches, viz. :—

1911.

January...	...	·690
February	...	3·390
March ...	...	1·07
April ...	...	2·87
May ...	...	1·315
June ...	...	2·810
July ...	...	·615
August ...	...	3·325
September	...	4·575
October...	...	3·440
November	...	2·845
December	...	5·935
Total ...		<hr/> 32·88 inches.

The most rain on one day was 1·39 inches on September 12th, this being the only day when 1 inch or more rain fell.

There were 16 days when half-an-inch or more rain was recorded, and 197 on which no rain was collected.

Drainage.

The sewage from the most thickly populated portion of the district of Burscough Bridge, Burscough Town, and the adjoining parts of Lathom, is carried to the Council's sewage farm at New Lane, Burscough, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Burscough Bridge.

It is treated in open settling tanks, without precipitation, and the tank effluent is then used to irrigate the land, of which there are 10 statute acres under treatment.

The land is well underdrained, and gives good crops of mangolds and turnips, which are readily sold in the autumn to neighbouring farmers and cowkeepers for cattle food. Owing to the excessive dryness of the summer the turnip crop was practically a failure, but the mangolds were on the other hand very good, and at the auction sale in autumn realized a record price since the farm was first used for this purpose. In order to deal with storm water so as not to unduly drown the growing crops, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of ground was last year left bare, and this was quite equal to treating all the water coming down during heavy rain.

There is also another $\frac{1}{2}$ acre which is never cultivated, the effluent from which is treated on a large cinder filter bed before going into the stream.

The effluent from this farm continues to give entire satisfaction to the Inspectors of the Ribble Joint Committee, being invariably in the "Good" list.

The sludge from the settling tanks is pumped out and air dried in lagoons and when sufficiently dry for removal is taken away by a neighbouring farmer. No difficulty whatever is therefore experienced by us in the solution of the "sludge disposal problem."

The sewers are on the separate system except in new property where water closets are put in, when the roof water is permitted to be turned into the drains to give additional flushing.

At the top ends of the main sewers there are 5 flushing chambers each of 500 gallons capacity fitted with Adams' patent flushing syphons. They are used regularly during the summer months.

The sewage from the village of Westhead, situated at the south end of the district, is treated in settling tanks with aluminoferric, the tank effluent afterwards passing through double contact trickling filters. The high level beds being 3'-0" deep (2'-6" of coke broken to 2-inch guage) with a 6" layer of fine cinders on the top.

The low level beds are composed of 1'-6" cinders with 4 to 6 inches of very fine sifted cinders on top.

The effluent from these works, although not so uniformly good as that obtained by the land treatment at New Lane, is on the whole very satisfactory, and a "Poor" sample of effluent is very rarely obtained.

Sewer Ventilation.

The sewers are ventilated by means of perforated manhole grids at the road level. Where persistent complaints have been made as to these open grids smelling badly, the openings have been blocked up and a nine inch pipe inserted in the manhole about 5-0 feet from the road level leading to a reinforced ferro-concrete vent shaft, 17 feet high, and fitted at the top with a 6" Boyle's Air Pump Ventilator. 4 of these shafts have been erected and have been entirely successful in removing the cause of complaint.

Canal Boats.

30 canal boats were inspected during the year, and without exception all were found in very good and clean condition. There is a decided improvement from year to year in the way the canal boats are kept whether due to the fact that the carrying trade by canal is declining and thus giving the boat people more time it is difficult to say, but the fact remains that it is a very rare occurrence now to meet with any dirty or badly repaired boats.

During the summer, owing to the canal being short of water above Blackburn, and the strike in the transport trade, a great many of the boatmen were stopped for about 13 weeks.

Again in December, the boatmen in the employ of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co. were stopped for 5 weeks, due to a strike being declared by the Boatmen's Union.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses are all inspected several times during the year at irregular periods, and are always found in clean and good condition. Only 1 notice was necessary for whitewashing during the year, this being due to a flue becoming choked and causing a back draught and thus filling the bakehouse with smoke a fortnight after it had been cleaned down. There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

Slaughter-houses.

There are only 3 private slaughterhouses in the district. These are always kept in satisfactory order and condition, and no public abattoir is provided or considered necessary.

Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Food unfit for Consumption.

No food has been seized as unfit for consumption during the year.

Nuisances.

No statutory notices have been served requiring the abatement of nuisances during the year. In all cases it is the custom unless a nuisance is abated before the

Health Committee meeting, to write to the person responsible for abatement pointing out that the existence of nuisance has been reported to the committee and giving a copy of such report with a request for immediate attention.

As a result of this action, and others that are attended to as soon as notified, 119 nuisances have been dealt with during the year, viz. :—

Combined ashpits and privies, repaired, roofed or cemented	11
New ashpits provided	2
Privies abolished and waterclosets provided with ashbins, or reconstructed dry ashpits (including schools)...	59
Pail closets provided in lieu of privies at schools where no sewer available	4
Blocked drains opened	36
Drains taken up and relaid with new pipes	2
Downspouts and eaves gutters repaired and replaced	3
Slopstones fixed where not previously provided	8
Slopstone pipes repaired	6
New slopstones, wastes, and yard gullies fixed	8
Yard pavements taken up, repaved and repaired	15
Water supply condemned and new supply obtained from Council's main	3
Smoke nuisance abated	1
Nuisances caused by depositing of manure dealt with	2

Smoke.

There are only 8 tall chimneys in the district, and as no complaint has been made as to nuisance created by them no timed observations have been made during the year.

There are no regulations in force limiting the period for the emission of black smoke.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. BURROWS,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

